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# INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST THEORY

WINTER 2003

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University of Toronto

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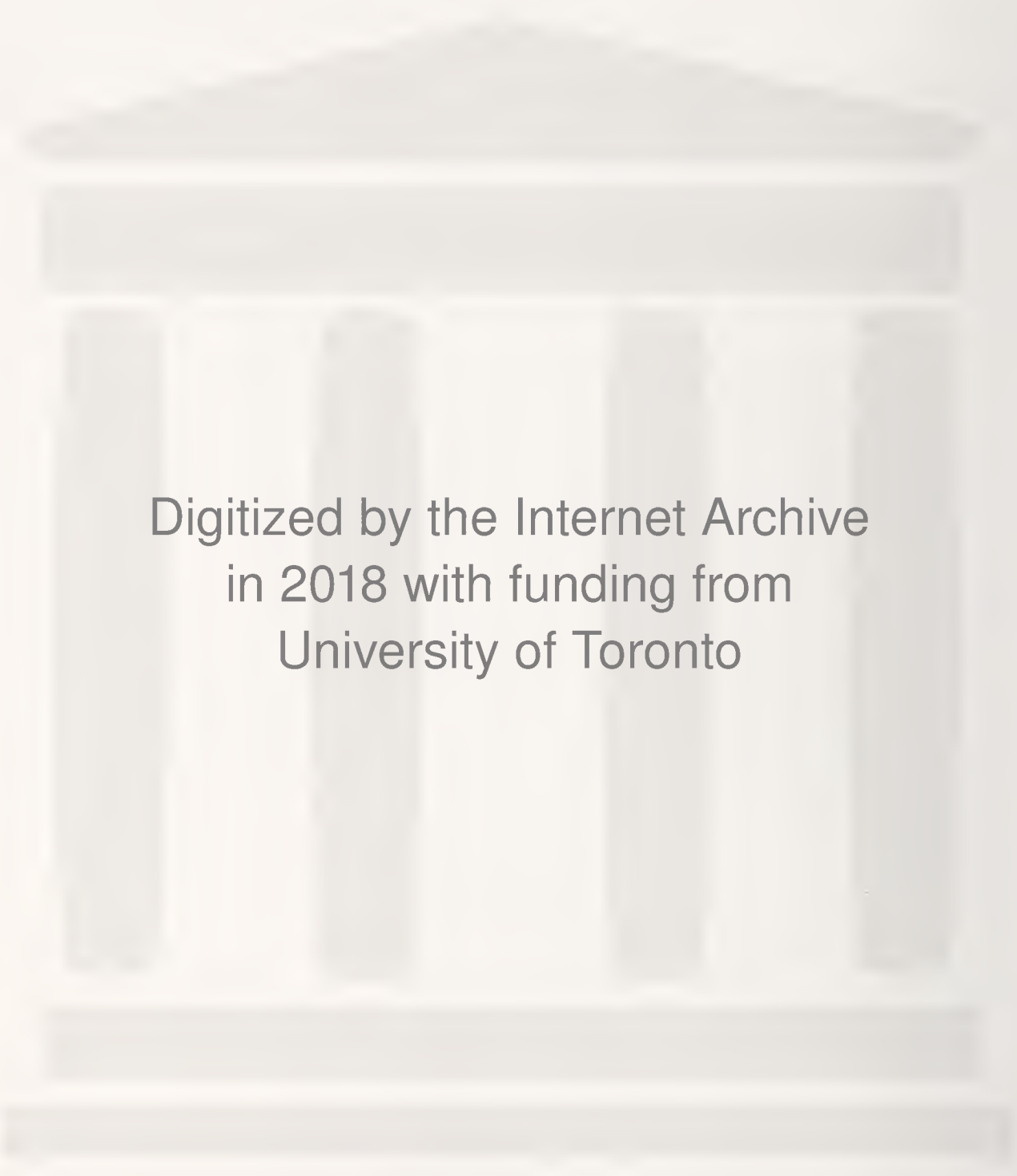
# **INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST THEORY**

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**Prof. Brenda Cossman**

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## Introduction to Feminist Theory

### Reading List

#### Week One

Introduction

#### Week Two – Overview of Feminist Approaches to Law

Denise Reaume “What’s Distinctive About Feminist Analysis of Law? A Conceptual Analysis of Women’s Exclusion from Law” (1996) 2 *Legal Theory* 265.....1

#### Week Three – Dominance Feminism

Catherine MacKinnon *Feminism Unmodified: Discourses on Life and Law*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press 1987 pp. 1-17.....32

Catherine MacKinnon “Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State” *Signs*, vol. 77 (1982) .....41

#### Week Four – Essentialism and the Politics of Difference

Angela Harris, “Race and Essentialism in Legal Theory,” (1990) 42 *Stanford Law Review* 581, 581-601, 605-616.....57

#### Week Five – Feminist Legal Subjects and the Politics of Agency

Katherine Abrams “Sex Wars Redux: Agency and Coercion in Feminist Legal Theory” 95 *Columbia Law Review* 304 (1995) ....90

#### Week Six – Knowledge and the Politics of Truth

Susan Williams, “Feminist Legal Epistemologies,” (1993) 8 *Berkeley Women’s Law Journal* .....127

Susan Glaspell *A Jury of Her Peers* (1917) .....170

#### Week Seven – Feminist Engagements with Law

Shelley Gavigan, “Morgentaler and Beyond: The Legal Regulation of Reproduction,” in J. Brodie, S. Gavigan and J. Jenson, *The Politics of Abortion* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992).....178

#### Week Eight – Feminist Litigation Strategies

Lise Gotell, “Towards a Democratic Practice of Feminist Litigation? LEAFS Changing Approach to Charter Equality” in R. Jhappan, ed., *Women’s Legal Strategies in Canada* (2002) .....206

## **Week Nine – Contentious Sites -- Pornography**

Brenda Cossman, “Feminist Fashion or Morality in Drag? The Sexual Subtext of the Butler Decision,” in *Bad Attitudes on Trial*, Cossman et al.(University of Toronto Press, 1997) .....227

Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund, Factum of the Intervenor in Little Sister’s Book and Art Emporium v. Canada. (1999) .....250

## **Week Ten – Contentious Sites: Marriage**

Martha Fineman “Why Marriage?” 9 Virginia Journal of Social Policy and the Law 239 (2001) ..277